

RESOLUTION 2015-

STATEMENT IN OPPOSITION OF LNG FACILITIES IN THE NY/NJ BIGHT

A resolution decrying proposals for offshore liquefied natural gas facilities and calling, instead, for support for fishing, tourism, trade, and other clean ocean economies.

Mayor Engelstad offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, ocean dumping off the coasts of New Jersey and New York has been stopped and the region has become clean, healthy and vibrant, sustaining billion dollar tourism and fisheries economies.

WHEREAS, for years, harmful ocean industrialization by energy interests has tried to gain a foothold in the ocean waters off the New York and New Jersey ocean coastlines to build liquefied natural gas (LNG) import and export facilities.

WHEREAS, LNG is a dirty and expensive fossil fuel. LNG is a super-cooled form of natural gas, a fossil fuel, and is transported by tanker all over the globe. This energy intensive life cycle makes LNG up to 40% more polluting than domestic natural gas, thereby contributing to climate change. With sufficient domestic resources, the U.S. does not need to import natural gas, and with markets in Asia and Europe paying up to six times what the U.S. pays for natural gas as of 2013, LNG will cost much more.

WHEREAS, LNG ports are not in the public interest. In a 2011 letter addressed to the Maritime Administration (the agency responsible for approving offshore LNG ports), New Jersey Governor Chris Christie noted that these ports can “*present unacceptable and substantial risks to [New Jersey’s] residents, natural resources, economy, and security.*” These ports can devastate fish habitats, impact endangered species, exclude the public (and other uses) from large areas of the ocean, and are national security targets.

WHEREAS, LNG is unsafe and risky. LNG tankers are dangerous for boaters, fishermen, shipping and trade interests. Because they are often located near or next to shipping lanes, the US Department of Energy warns that “*a large breach and spill could have both short-term and long-term impacts on public safety, energy security and reliability, and harbor and waterway commerce.*”

WHEREAS, these ports are gateways to a more expensive, more polluted energy future. With the nation’s natural gas resources, energy companies are now scrambling to build LNG export facilities and ports around the coastline. Several facilities have already been approved, and dozens of companies have already been granted permission to export up to 40% of our domestic daily natural gas production. Exports are projected to lead to higher natural gas prices, higher manufacturing costs, and more hydraulic fracturing (fracking) of domestic shale gas. Ports in the ocean off NY and NJ, licensed under the Deepwater Port Act, are legally allowed to act as both an import and export hub, with no public review required to switch directions.

WHEREAS, LNG ports along the NY and NJ coastlines and in the NY/NJ Bight are not in the public interest and endanger clean ocean economies, public safety, and the environment.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bradley Beach, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey hereby opposes the building of LNG facilities and ports for either the import or export of LNG, off the NJ/NY coast. A clean ocean economy is the best choice for our environment and economic future.

Seconded by Councilman _____ and adopted upon the following vote:

AYES NAYS ABSTAIN ABSENT

Mr. Cotler
Mr. Volante
Mr. Goldfarb
Mr. Galassetti
Mayor Engelstad

CERTIFICATION

I, Mary Ann Solinski, Municipal Clerk, Borough of Bradley Beach, Monmouth County, New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Mayor and Council at the April 14, 2015 meeting.

MARY ANN SOLINSKI, RMC, CMC
Municipal Clerk

Municipality: Borough of Bradley Beach

Authorized by: _____

Mayor Gary Engelstad

